IN THE CLAIMS

1.   (CURRENTLY AMENDED) In a computer database adapted for use by a—one or more product component suppliersuppliers, a method of cataloguing components provided by said one or more product component suppliers supplier—and compatibility of said components with a plurality of products, including the steps of:

creating and modifying data relating to components specific to the one or more product component suppliersthat supplier, said data including component identifiers for said components provided by said one or more product component suppliersupplier,

creating and modifying a plurality of component groups, each component group containing component identifiers for one or more of said one or more product component suppliers' supplier's—components of similar type,

creating and modifying one or more compatibility groups independently within each said components group,

creating and modifying associations between component identifiers and compatibility groups,

receiving product identifiers created by an external source and assigning each product identifier to a compatibility group within each component group, such that each compatibility group includes one or more product identifiers representing products with similar compatibilities within the respective components groups, and

providing a search tool whereby said database is queried by product identifier and component group to return one or more component identifiers compatible with the product represented by the product identifier.

2.   (ORIGINAL) In a computer database adapted for use by an administrator and multiple product component suppliers, a method of cataloguing components provided by said multiple suppliers and compatibility of said components with a plurality of products, including the steps of:

said data including component identifiers for said components provided by said supplier,

providing each said supplier with access to a portion of data relating to components specific to that supplier, said data including component identifiers for said components provided by said supplier,

providing each said supplier with tools for creating and modifying a plurality of component groups, each component group containing component identifiers for one or more of said suppliers components of similar type,

creating product identifiers relating to products, and exporting said created product identifiers to said multiple suppliers,

providing each said supplier with tools for creating and modifying one or more compatibility groups independently within each said components group and for creating and modifying associations between component identifiers and compatibility groups,

said suppliers receiving said exported product identifiers and assigning each product to a compatibility group within each component group, such that each compatibility group includes one or more product identifiers representing products with similar compatibilities within the respective components groups,

said suppliers exporting said data portion as modified to said administrator,

consolidating said data portions received from said suppliers into said database, and

providing a search tool whereby said database is queried by product identifier and component group to return one or more component identifiers compatible with the product represented by the product identifier.

3.   (ORIGINAL) A method according to claim 2 wherein said step of assigning a product to a compatibility group comprises assigning the product to an existing compatibility group, assigning the product to a new compatibility group or assigning the product to an unassigned compatibility group.

4.   (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A database system for cataloguing components provided by a~one or more_product component supplier suppliers and compatibility of said components with a plurality of products, including:

a computer processor,

a database readable by said processor,

component and product data stored in said database, said data including a plurality of component identifiers divided into one or more component groups,

each component group including one or more compatibility groups containing product identifiers, and associations between said component identifiers and a compatibility group, and

a search tool queried by component identifier to return one or more product identifiers compatible with the component represented by the component identifier.

5.   (ORIGINAL) A database system according to claim 4 wherein said component data includes data relating to components from multiple component suppliers.

6.   (ORIGINAL) A database system according to claim 5 further including multiple supplier interfaces each allowing access to a part of the data relating to the components of the respective supplier, said supplier interfaces including tools for creating and modifying one or more compatibility groups independently within each said components group, for creating and modifying associations between component identifiers and compatibility groups, and for receiving exported product identifiers and assigning each product to a compatibility group within each component group, such that each compatibility group includes one or more product identifiers representing products with similar compatibilities within the respective components groups.

7.   (ORIGINAL) A method according to claim 1 wherein said components are vehicle components and said product identifiers are vehicle details.

8.   (ORIGINAL) A method according to claim 2 wherein said components are vehicle components and said product identifiers are vehicle details.

9.   (ORIGINAL) A database system according to claim 4 wherein said components are vehicle components and said product identifiers are vehicle details.

10. (NEW) A method for compiling and maintaining a component database operated on a computer system, the database including compatibility information relating a plurality of components supplied by one or more product component suppliers to associated products, the method including the steps of:

for each product component supplier, generating a product component supplier's compatibility list of components and associated products;

collating the compatibility information into the database in compatibility groups based on the associated devices.

11. (NEW) A method as claimed in claim 10, wherein the compatibility groups are collated in component groups.

12. (NEW) A method as claimed in claim 10, wherein the compatibility information includes component identifiers supplied by each corresponding product component supplier.

13. (NEW) A method as claimed in claim 10, the computer system including a data collating process.

14. (NEW) A method as claimed in claim 10, wherein a product identifier is assigned to each product and communicated to each supplier for inclusion as part of the compatibility information in the product component supplier's compatibility list.

15. (NEW) A method as claimed in claim 14, wherein the product identifier is assigned by a database coordinator.

16. (NEW) A method as claimed in claim 13, wherein the data collating process includes a drag and drop process.

17. (NEW) A method as claimed in claim 10, wherein the compatibility   list   is   compiled   in   accordance   with   a predetermined format.

18. (NEW) A method as claimed in claim 10, wherein the compatibility list includes a component group and one or more compatibility groups within each component group.

19. (NEW) A method as claimed in claim 14, providing a search tool whereby the database is searchable using the product identifier and the component group.

20. (NEW) A method as claimed in claim 10, wherein the product component supplier's compatibility list for each product component supplier is generated by the corresponding product component supplier.